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**District Attorney News Release**  
For Immediate Release

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Today the Honorable Judge J. Michael Brown sentenced 44 year old John Simpson to prison for sixteen years for possession of an assault weapon, felon in possession of firearms and fleeing from a police officer. Simpson received a longer sentence because he has a serious prior conviction under the Three Strikes Law, having been sentenced to prison for manslaughter in 1992.

The facts of this case are as follows: on February 22, 2008 at approximately 3:30 a.m. law enforcement officers attempted to stop the defendant as he was driving a black 1996 Jeep. The defendant drove through the city of Arcata without yielding to the officers and ran two stop signs. The defendant then drove to Highway 101 and to 299 reaching a speed of 110 miles per hour. Law enforcement ended the pursuit.

The Humboldt County Drug Task Force then obtained an arrest warrant and search warrant for the defendant. On March 4, 2008 the agents saw the defendant arrive at a home on Albee Street in the same black 1996 Jeep. He was arrested and the vehicle was searched. Agents found on the front passenger seat under a jacket a .223 caliber assault rifle that had one cartridge in the chamber and 10 rounds in the magazine.

Other law enforcement personnel searched the defendant's two homes on his property in Weitchpec. There they found a Marlin .22 caliber rifle and a loaded Western Field 12 gauge shotgun. In a backpack in the living room they found a .223 caliber bullet. Under a bed the agents found a .22 caliber Ruger pistol loaded with 6 rounds. As the defendant is a convicted felon, it is illegal for him to possess any firearms.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Maggie Fleming.  
Mr. Simpson was represented by Russell Clanton.